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**Minutes of the Morris Ring ARM**

**1st March 2025**

## Minutes of the 2025 Morris Ring Annual Representatives' Meeting, 1st March 2025

Meeting chaired by Nigel Strudwick, Squire. Minutes taken by Peter Austin, Bagman.

The meeting opened at 13:36 with the Squire welcoming all.

### 1. Attendees and apologies

Sides represented:

Anker	Gloucestershire	Original Welsh Border
Barnsley Longsword	Golden Star	Plymouth
Benfieldside	Green Man's	Ravensbourne
Big Jigs	Harthill	Richmond on Swale
Bristol	Headington	Rutland
Bury Pace-Eggers	Hinkley Bullockers	Shakespeare
Cambridge	Traditional Ilmington	Stafford
Chalice	Jockey	Taylor's Morris
Chester City	Kennet	Thaxted
Dartington	Kingston Spring Grove	Thelwall
Devil's Dyke	Knightlow	Traditional Bampton
Dolphin	Lassington Oak	Trigg
Earlsdon	Leicester	Uttoxeter
East Suffolk	Letchworth	Wath-upon-Dearne
East Surrey	London Pride	Westminster
Exeter	Lord Conyers	Whitchurch
First Class Stamp	Morris 18-30	White Hart
Fools and Beasts	Moulton	Yateley

Plus Jen Cox, Malcolm Hills (Open Morris), Graham Lee, Eliza Russell (Morris Federation) and Fee Lock (JMO Secretary),

Apologies from Ashdown Forest, Bristol, Kinnerton, Kemp's, Leyland, Lincoln and Micklebarrow Royal Preston, Foresters, King John's, Brackley, Yateley, Claro Longsword, North Wood, Icknield Way, 1<sup>st</sup> Sedgely

Also Chris Wildridge, John Burke, Past Squires - Robin Springett, Bob Cross, Cliff Marchant

### 2. Minutes of the 2024 meeting available on the Morris Ring website [https://themorrisring.org/files/docs/bagmans-newsletter/bagmans-newsletter-january-2025\\_1.pdf](https://themorrisring.org/files/docs/bagmans-newsletter/bagmans-newsletter-january-2025_1.pdf)

- *Ashdown Forest missing*
- *Pete Simpson proposed, Nick Appleyard seconded*

### 3. Matters arising from the minutes

- *Michael Stimpson has been replaced as JMO insurance agent by Chris Dent, Nigel formally said thanks for the splendid work he's done for the insurance policy*
- *Morris Shop – Bells and black books have been returned, future to be decided*

4. Officers' reports (the reports are located in the appendix below):
  - a. Squire of the Morris Ring
  - b. Bagman of the Morris Ring
  - c. Treasurer of the Morris Ring
    - i. *Full accounts will be available in May/June*
    - ii. *Discussion paper on grants now published and circulated to the AC, grants of £1000, £3000 and £5000 will be available. More details to follow*
  - d. Chairman of the Advisory Council
  - e. Morris Ring Archive Group
    - i. *Mike Garland – discussions about the creation of an archive officer to oversee all archive activities, decided that at this moment better to continue as a group*
    - ii. *Charlie Corcoran – Logbooks – need information from event organisers to keep them up to date*
    - iii. *Emma Melville – some new activities for the group coming out of area meetings*
    - iv. *Pete de Courcy – what of The Morris Dancer? MS – new editor lined up*
    - v. *Barry Care – important to keep membership up to date of activities of group*
  - f. Webmaster and publications
  - g. Overseas Bagman
    - i. *Eddie Worrall is stepping down, Lewis Elliot is taking his place*
5. Elections
  - a. Bagman election
    - i. *54 votes cast – 18 by proxy*  
*Jono Millward – 16 ballots + 5 proxy's = 21 votes*  
*Rob Evans – 20 ballots + 13 proxy = 33 votes*  
*Congratulations Rob*
6. Proposed changes to the supporting documents to the constitution
  - a. Nigel surmised the reason for doing this
  - b. Meetings and Advisory Council Policy
    - i. *Proposed Ellie Simpson, Seconded Steve Holder, passed by majority*
  - c. Safeguarding policy
    - i. *Proposed Jon Melville, Seconded Chalie Corcoran, passed by majority*
    - ii. *Barry Care – talk in government about making DBS on the individual rather than based by organisation and so more portable than the current system, officers to explore further and report back, possibly via the JMO. Action – officers to discuss and report*
  - d. Complaints procedure – **motion withdrawn** – *Action to officers to review*
    - i. *Simon Newman – should the sentence about reputation be removed?*  
*Discussion followed*  
*Darren Nugent – duty of candour mentioned in the King's Speech, think it's worth removing clause*  
*Trevor Jenkins – clause needs rewording*  
*At this point it was agreed to withdraw the motion*

7. Full membership nominations
  - a. The Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts
    - i. Some discussion -
    - ii. Accepted by majority show of hands, 3 objections, 1 abstention

*Comment from Nigel Cox - do we have to refer to the Letchworth Fool as Sir Roger Comley – Much laughter ensued*

8. **Area Representatives** (year of election in brackets)

East Midlands, Charlie Corcoran (2019) (East/West Mids combined as Charlie went to archive group meeting)

South Midlands, Geoff Pitt (2024)

*Changing areas?*

*Pete Simpson – please defer this to the AC*

Northern, Darren Nugent (2021), North East, Nick Appleyard (2024), Northwest, David Loughlin (2008)

*Discussion centred on getting more Northern sides to the ARM and more generally engaged in Ring activities.*

*Idea floated of Ring helping to find instructors to help improve dance standards for new members. Joe Oldaker – list of instructors previously compiled, worth finding out*

*Archives – what to do with it all?*

*Harhill Morris turn 50 next year – event being planned for late June*

*Newsletter is working well, sides interest has been noticeable*

*DL – collaboration between Northern sides could be useful to helping promote more events in the North*

West Midlands, Matthew Turvey (Shakespeare) (2021)

*Some discussion on archive being brought to AC*

*Squire and Bagman both thanked Matt for 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary bellringing and Stratford Ring Meeting respectively*

Eastern, Matt Simons (Peterborough) (2023)

*Some guidance and a forum for club archivists would be useful, otherwise discussions on publicity and recruitment*

South East, Lewis Elliot (Westminster, Greensleeves et al) (2023), South Wales and West, Paul Reece (2017)

*Recruitment and retention discussed – younger people looking for social experiences*

*Comms – helps if sides keep their email addresses up to date*

*Trend of no interest in the SW for National Trust venues for having morris dancers at their venues – possibly discussion within JMO?*

*Scouts and Guide huts seem to be the only locations allowing overnight stays*

9. Area Representatives' Reports

East Midlands – report in appendix

South Midlands – report in appendix

North West – report in appendix

North East – report in appendix

North – report in appendix

West Midlands – report in appendix

Eastern – report in appendix

South East – report in appendix

South West and Wales – report in appendix

10. Future events

See ARM Papers pack

11. Date of next meeting

*March 7<sup>th</sup> 2026*

12. Any other business

a. *Clive du Mont – Bristol Morris Men are now Bristol Morris, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025 Introductory workshop for new members, an appeal for anyone interested to come along*

b. *Jon Melville – we're not just losing Nigel, also the Bagman and Chair of the Advisory Council. Bagman is a very consuming role. Chair of AC is very challenging as well. Vote of thanks for both*

c. *Nigel Cox – contact has been voted chair of federation of young farmers, scope for collaboration?*

*John Barsby – Rutland had a good session a couple*

*Clive du Mont – 'who ever heard of rural workers dancing the morris'*

d. *Colin Andrews - please update Morris Dance Database Entries*

e. *Rob Chisman – Fools and Beasts weekend applications now open for October*

Meeting closed at 15:40

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1934 ~